

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

This Amendment is responsive to the Notice of Allowance mailed on December 3, 2003. A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is being filed concurrently herewith. Entry of this Amendment is requested.

In this Amendment, new dependent claims 47-55 are added so that claims 1-33 and 35-55 are pending.

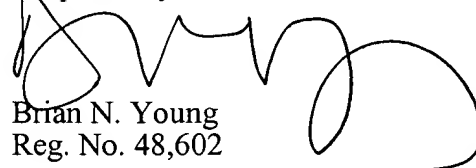
An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is being filed concurrently with this Amendment and with the RCE. Consideration of the references cited in the IDS is requested.

**CONCLUSION**

It is believed that the claims are in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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